

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: CAMPANIA REGIONAL CRISIS

1. THE CAMPANIA REGIONAL CRISIS CONTINUES AND IS CLOSELY LINKED TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CRISIS IN SPITE OF STATEMENTS BY SOME POLITICOS TO THE CONTRARY. ALL CONSULATE INTERLOCUTORS AGREE THAT THE REGIONAL CRISIS WILL BE A LENGTHY ONE AND BE RESOLVED ONLY AFTER THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT IN ROME. THEREFORE, MOST OBSERVERS LOOK TO RESOLUTION SOME TIME IN LATE MARCH. COMPOSITION OF THE REGIONAL GIUNTA WILL BE INFLUENCED BY THAT OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. POLITICIANS AT THE SAME TIME ARE AWARE THAT REGIONAL POLITICAL

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ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOT WITHOUT IMPACT ON ROME.
2. THE ISSUE HERE REMAINS EXTENT OF PCI INVOLVEMENT IN GOVERNMENT. THE PCI DENIES A REGIONAL/NATIONAL LINK CONTENDING THAT SOLUTION OF THE CAMPANIA GOVERNMENT PROBLEM SHOULD DEPEND SOLELY ON LOCAL EXPERIENCE AND TRENDS. COMMUNIST PARTY REGIONAL SECRETARY ANTONIO BASSOLINI TOLD PRESS THAT THE PCI END OF DECEMBER CALL FOR RESIGNATION OF THE GIUNTA "DERIVED FROM AN AUTONOMOUS REFLECTION ON THE (CAMPANIA) EXPERIENCE...FROM A PROGRAM ACCORD OF 1975 TO THE
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POLITICAL AGREEMENT (PCI IN THE MAJORITY--1976)". BASSOLINI DECLARED THAT THE PCI, WHICH IS IN THE POLITICAL MAJORITY, HELPS PREPARE THE PROGRAM AND EVALUATES ITS PROGRESS (THROUGH ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES IT CONTROLS) COULD NOT LOGICALLY BE EXCLUDED FROM THE EXECUTIVE. WHEN ASKED BY THE PRESS WHY A GIUNTA EARLIER APPROVED BY THE PCI (IT VOTED WITH THE MAJORITY) IS NO LONGER SATISFACTORY, BASSOLINI REPLIED THAT HE HAD "NO DIFFICULTY REEVALUATING DECISIONS

TAKEN MORE THAN A YEAR AGO".

3. THE REGIONAL DC, WITH SOME HELP FROM ROME, CONSIDERS 1976 DECISIONS STILL VALID. THE PARTY MAINTAINS ITS UNIFIED STANCE AGAINST PCI PARTICIPATION IN THE GIUNTA, EVEN THOUGH SOME LOCAL DC LEADERS WOULD PREFER ACCOMMODATION. BENEVENTO DEPUTY CLEMENTE

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MASTELLA, FOR EXAMPLE, DECLARED TO PRESS THAT IN ORDER TO DETERMINE IF "DEMOCRATIC CONVERGENCE" IS POSSIBLE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL THERE SHOULD BE "EXPERIMENTATION IN THE PERIPHERY WITH EMERGENCY GIUNTAS" INCLUDING THE PCI. CAMPANIA REGIONAL DC OFFICIALS, OF COURSE, REJECT MASTELLA'S SUGGESTION AS INOPPORTUNE.

4. BEYOND PUBLIC POSITIONS THERE MAY BE SOME AREA FOR POLITICAL BARGAINING. RECENTLY ELECTED CAMPANIA REGIONAL SECRETARY MICHELE SCOZIA TOLD CONOFF THAT PCI HAS QUIETLY PROPOSED A COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO THE REGIONAL CRISIS. INSTEAD OF DIRECT PCI PARTICIPATION IN THE GIUNTA, THE COMMUNISTS PROPOSED THAT CERTAIN ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN (PCI) SIMULTANEOUSLY HEAD REGIONAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS. THESE DEPARTMENTS ARE NOW HEADED BY GIUNTA MEMBERS THEMSELVES. IN ADDITION TO CONSTITUTIONAL/LEGAL QUESTIONS (DEPARTMENTS BELONG TO THE EXECUTIVE NOT THE LEGISLATURE), THE DC IS EXTREMELY WARY ABOUT ANY MOVE BEYOND THE PRESENT CAMPANIA POLITICAL ARRANGEMENT ALREADY "IN ADVANCE" OF THE NATIONAL MODEL. THE DC STILL CALLS UPON ALL PARTIES TO AGREE TO A COMMON PROGRAM TO MEET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE REGION'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS LEAVING THE GIUNTA COMPOSITION QUESTION FOR LATER. THAT LATER SHOULD BE AFTER THE ROME POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. COLANTONIO.

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